

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 247526

EXDIS FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 13438 ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN
CAIRO JERUSALEM DATED SEP 28:

QTE: S E C R E T TEL AVIV 13438

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, IS

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH BEGIN

1. BEGIN BEGAN OUR SEPTEMBER 27 MEETING BY SAYING THAT HE
WAS HAVING "HORRIBLE PROBLEMS" WITH MKS ON THE CAMP DAVID
AGREEMENTS. TODAY'S DEBATE SHOWED JUST HOW DIFFICULT
THOSE PROBLEMS WERE. BEGIN SAID HE HAD BEEN VIOLENTLY
ATTACKED BY HIS "BEST FRIENDS." MOSHE SHAMIR, FOR EXAMPLE,
WITH WHOM BEGIN HAD BEEN CLOSE OVER HALF HIS LIFE, HAD
CONDEMNED HIM VIOLENTLY AND WOULD VOTE AGAINST THE CAMP
DAVID ACCORDS. BUT THESE DIFFICULTIES DID NOT DETER THE
PRIME MINISTER FROM FIGHTING FOR THE AGREEMENTS. THEY

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WERE GOOD FOR ISRAEL, EGYPT, PEACE, THE FREE WORLD, AND
"ALL THE VALUES I BELIEVE IN." NONETHELESS, BEGIN CON-
TINUED, HE DID NOT REMEMBER A PHENOMENON IN ISRAEL LIKE
THE PRESENT ONE SURROUNDING THE NATIONAL DEBATE OVER THE
SUMMIT. THE NIGHT BEFORE 200 BOYS HAD COME TO HIS HOUSE
AFTER MIDNIGHT SHOUTING AND SCREAMING, PREVENTING HIS
WIFE AND NEIGHBORS FROM SLEEPING BEFORE 5:00 AM. BEGIN

HAD TOLD THE POLICE TO LET THEM COME BECAUSE THAT WAS THE DEMOCRATIC THING TO DO, BUT THAT INCIDENT ONLY REFLECTED A MUCH WIDER PROBLEM. MANY OF HIS OWN LIFE-LONG FRIENDS WERE CALLING HIM TRAITOR. AND AS MUCH AS HALF OF HIS OWN PARTY, HERUT, WAS AGAINST HIM.

2. BEGIN SAID HE WAS TELLING ME THIS BECAUSE HE WANTED TO SAY AGAIN THAT WASHINGTON MUST ACCEPT THAT IT IS UNJUST AND UNFAIR TO ASK HIM TO DO SOMETHING JUST BECAUSE OF SADAT'S VULNERABILITY. THE ADMINISTRATION MUST UNDERSTAND HIS DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS INCIDENTALLY ANWAR SADAT DID NOT HAVE IN EGYPT BECAUSE THEY ARE THE PRICE OF REAL DEMOCRACY. THE IDEA THAT HE SHOULD MAKE CONCESSIONS BECAUSE OF SADAT'S DIFFICULTIES, BEGIN STRESSED, SHOULD NEVER AGAIN IN THE FUTURE BE REPEATED BY U.S. OFFICIALS.

3. OBSERVING THAT THIS MAY BE ONLY THE BEGINNING, BEGIN SAID A GREAT PROBLEM WILL OCCUR AT THE MOMENT THE SETTLERS AT YAMIT MUST LEAVE. HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN THEN. THE PRESS HAD SAID THAT HE TRIED TO EVADE THE ISSUE OF THE SINAI SETTLEMENTS. THAT WAS NOT TRUE. HE HAD TAKEN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF TELLING THE KNESSET THAT THE SETTLEMENTS WERE A PRICE FOR PEACE WITH EGYPT. HE CLOSED THIS PART OF OUR CONVERSATION BY REPEATING YET AGAIN THAT HE HOPED THE PRESIDENT WOULD READ THIS MESSAGE
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AND UNDERSTAND THAT NEVER AGAIN WOULD BEGIN ACCEPT THE ARGUMENT THAT HE MUST MAKE DIFFICULT COMPROMISES JUST BECAUSE SADAT ALSO HAS PROBLEMS. LEWIS UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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